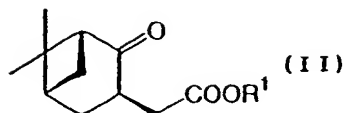
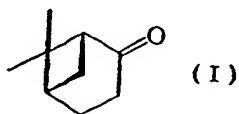


Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound (II):

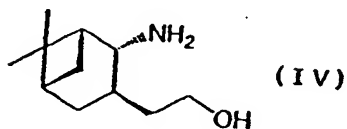


wherein R¹ is alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (I):

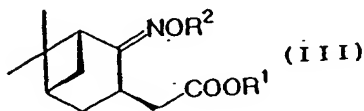


with XCH₂COOR¹ wherein X is halogen, and R¹ is as defined above in the presence of an additive selected from the group consisting of N,N'-dimethylpropyleneurea and 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone and a base.

Claim 2. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):

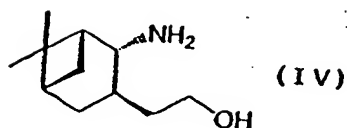


which comprises reducing a compound (III):

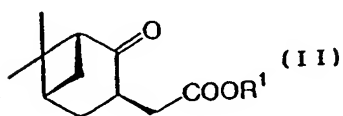


wherein R¹ is as defined above, and R² is hydrogen or alkyl, with an aluminum hydride.

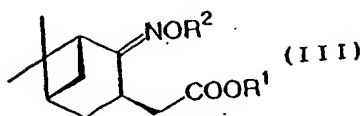
Claim 3. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):



which comprises reacting a compound (II):

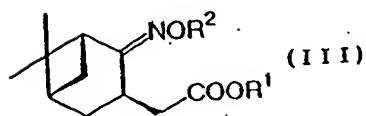


wherein R¹ is as defined above, with NH₂OR² wherein R² is as defined above to give a compound (III):

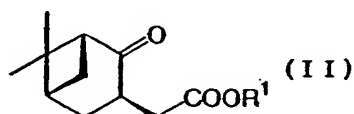


wherein R¹ and R² are as defined above, and reducing the compound (III) with an aluminum hydride.

Claim 4. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (III):

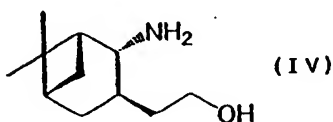


wherein R¹ and R² are as defined above, which comprises preparing a compound (II):

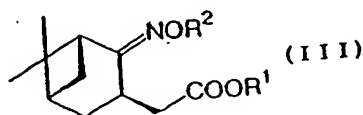


wherein R^1 is as defined above, through the process according to claim 1, and reacting the compound (II) with NH_2OR^2 wherein R^2 is as defined above.

Claim 5. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IV):



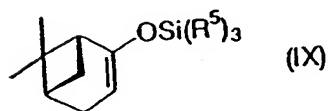
which comprises preparing a compound (III):



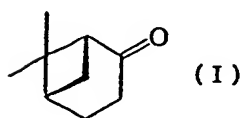
wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above through the process according to claim 4, and reducing the compound (III) with an aluminum hydride.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 2, 3 or 5~~ claim 2 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.

Claim 7. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (IX):

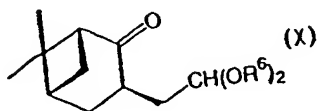


wherein R^5 each is independently alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (I):

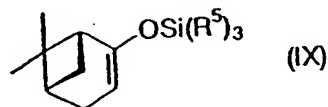


with $(R^5)_3SiX$ wherein R^5 is as defined above, and X is halogen, in the presence of a base.

Claim 8. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):

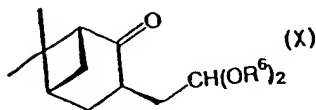


wherein R^6 each is independently alkyl, which comprises reacting a compound (IX):

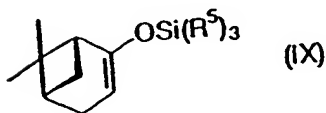


wherein R^5 each is independently alkyl, with $CH_2=CHOR^6$ wherein R^6 is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvate of R^6OH wherein R^6 is as defined above.

Claim 9. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound (X):



wherein R^6 is as defined above, which comprises preparing a compound (IX):



wherein R^5 is as defined above through the process according to claim 7, and reacting the compound (IX) with $CH_2=CHOR^6$ wherein R^6 is as defined above in the presence of ceric ammonium nitrate (IV) in a solvent of R^6OH wherein R^6 is as defined above.

Claims 10-13. (Cancel)

Claim 14. (New) The process according to claim 3 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.

Claim 15. (New) The process according to claim 5 wherein the aluminum hydride is prepared by reacting a Lewis acid with lithium aluminum hydride or reacting concentrated sulfuric acid with lithium aluminum hydride.